

Message Text

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TAGS: SENV, US, UR

SUBJ: US--USSR ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT; PROJECT V-2.1. (PRO-
TECTION OF NORTHERN ECOSYSTEMS); MUSK OXEN FROM NUNIVAK
TO WRANGEL ISLAND

1. REQUEST AMERICAN EMBASSY PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM
DR. DONALD O. SKOOG TO DR. V.D. DENISOV, DEPUTY CHIEF, MAIN
CONSERVATION ADMINISTRATION MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. WITH COPY
TO KUVSHINNIKOV OF HYDROMET:

2. "DEAR DR. DENISOV: IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE JOINT COMMITTEES
12 DECEMBER 1974 MEMORANDUM OF IMPLEMENTATION WE HAVE MADE
ARRANGEMENT FOR THE CAPTURE OF FOURTY (40) MUSK OXEN ON NUNIVAK
ISLAND TO BE TRANSFERRED BY SOVIET AIRCRAFT FOR RESETTLEMENT ON
THE TAIMYR PENINSULA AND WRANGELL ISLAND.

3. "THE WORK HAS BEEN ORGANIZED AS FOLLOWS:

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A. TWO SOVIET SPECIALISTS ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE

MUSK OXEN CAPTURE. THEY SHOULD ARRIVE IN ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, ON MONDAY 24 MARCH 1975. THEY WILL BE MET BY DR. LENSINK AND WILL TRAVEL IMMEDIATELY TO BETHEL AND NUNIVAK. WORK ON CAPTURING THE MUSK OXEN WILL TAKE PLACE 26 MARCH TO 5 APRIL 1975.

B. SOVIET AIRCRAFT, ONE OR MORE, SHOULD ARRIVE AT BECHEL, ALASKA FOR CUSTOM CLEARANCE ON 4 APRIL 1975 WEATHER PERMITTING. MUSK OXEN WILL BE LOADED ABOARD PLANE OR PLANES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER FLIGHT TO MEKIRYUK, NUNIVAK ISLAND, FOR TRANSPORT TO THE USSR. FOR YOUR INFORMATION, AT BETHEL AIRPORT THE RUNWAY IS HARD-SURFACED, TWO-THOUSAND (2,000) METERS LONG, WITH RUNWAY LIGHTS, OMNIDIRECTIONAL RADIO, LOW-FREQUENCY RANGE BEACON, AND INSTRUMENT APPROACH SYSTEM; AT MEKORYUK AIRPORT THE RUNWAY IS GRAVEL-SURFACED, ONE-THOUSAND SEVEN-HUNDRED (1,700) METERS LONG, WITHOUT, REPEAT, WITHOUT RUNWAY LIGHTS, WITHOUT OMNIDIRECTIONAL RADIO, AND WITHOUT INSTRUMENT APPROACH SYSTEM, BUT WITH A LOW-FREQUENCY RANGE BEACON THAT CAN BE FUNCTIONING FOR THIS OPERATION. ENGINE WARM-UP EQUIPMENT WILL BE AVAILABLE AT BOTH AIRPORTS; FUEL AND OIL AT BETHEL.

C. MUSK OXEN WILL BE CRATED INDIVIDUALLY, EACH CRATE BEING APPROXIMATELY FOUR (4) CUBIC METERS IN VOLUME. FREIGHT CAPACITY NEEDED IN SOVIET AIRCRAFT FOR TRANSPORT WILL TOTAL ABOUT TWO-HUNDRED-FIFTY (250) CUBIC METERS. RUNWAY CONDITIONS AT MEKORYUK COULD NECESSITATE TRANSFER OF MUSK OXEN IN TWO OR MORE LOADS TO BETHEL FOR FINAL LOADING AND TRANSPORT TO USSR. OPTIONS CAN BE WORKED OUT.

4. FOR PUBLICITY PURPOSES WE PROPOSE THAT THE U.S. SIDE ARRANGE TO HAVE THE ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF THE SOVIET TEAM AND ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE CAPTURE DONE BY U.S. FILM CREWS, WITH THE ARRIVAL AND RESETTLEMENT OF THE MUSK OXEN IN THE USSR TO BE DONE BY SOVIET FILM CREWS. SUBSEQUENTLY BOTH SIDES COULD ARRANGE TO HAVE THE TWO FILMS COMBINED AND EDITED FOR SHOWINGS IN BOTH COUNTRIES.

5. IT IS NECESSARY WE REACH AGREEMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON THE ITINERARY FOR THIS OPERATION. USA SIDE MUST KNOW BY MONDAY 24

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FEBRUARY 1975 WHETHER SOVIETS SIDE CAN MEET PROPOSED SCHEDULE. BECAUSE WE HAVE DISCUSSED THIS ACTIVITY THOROUGHLY ALREADY, BETWEEN OURSELVES AND BETWEEN USPENSKY AND LENSINK, I PRESUME YOU HAVE MADE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS ON THE SOVIET SIDE ALREADY. USA SIDE IS READY, AND CAN PROCEED AS SOON AS WE RECEIVE YOUR AFFIRMATIVE ANSWER.

6. DATES PROPOSED FOR THE CAPTURE ARE FIXED. IF SOVIET

SPECIALISTS WISH TO PARTICIPATE THEY MUST BE IN ALASKA NO LATER THAN 24 MARCH 1975. PICKUP DATE OF 4 APRIL 1975 CAN BE SET BACK TO 15 APRIL IF NECESSARY, BUT CAPTURE PERIOD CANNOT, REPEAT, CANNOT BE CHANGED. IF SOVIET SIDE CANNOT MEET THE DATE FOR PICKUP THE WORK MUST BE POSTPONED TILL NEXT YEAR.

7. TWO SOVIET SPECIALISTS PARTICIPATING IN MUSK OXEN CAPTURE CAN TRAVEL TO ALASKA ON COMMERCIAL AIRLINES VIA NEW YORK OR DIRECT TO ANCHORAGE, OR CAN ACCOMPANY SOVIET AIRCRAFT ON DIRECT FLIGHT TO BETHEL. WHILE IN USA, SOVIET SIDE WILL BE EXPECTED TO PAY COSTS OF COMMERCIAL LODGING AND FOOD, AND ALL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH OPERATION OF SOVIET AIRCRAFT. USA SIDE WILL BEAR ALL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH CAPTURING, HOLDING, FEEDING, AND CRATING MUSK OXEN, AND WILL FURNISH INTERPRETER.

8. IN VIEW OF THE COMPLEXITY OF THIS EXERCISE AND THE VERY SHORT TIME FACTOR, I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CORRESPONDENCE RESPONSE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE INFORMING ME OF:

A. THE NAMES OF THE TEAM WHICH WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE CAPTURE OF THE ANIMALS.

B. CONFIRMATION OF FILMING AND PUBLICITY ARRANGEMENTS.

C. ANY PUBLICITY REQUESTS OR SUGGESTIONS FROM THE SOVIET SIDE.

WE ALSO REQUEST THAT SOVIETS INFORM US MINIMUM OF 15 DAYS PRIOR TO FLIGHT OF PLANE TO PICK UP MUSK OXEN OF FOLLOWING FLIGHT PLAN INFORMATION:

- 1) ESTIMATED DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF DEPARTURE;
- 2) PLANNED ROUTE AND ESTIMATED TIME IN ROUTE;

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- 3) AIRCRAFT TYPE;
- 4) AIRCRAFT REGISTRATION NUMBER;
- 5) AIRCRAFT CALL SIGN;
- 6) NAME OF PILOT;
- 7) NAMES OF CREW MEMBERS;
- 8) ESTIMATED TIME, DATE OF DEPARTURE AND DESTINATION FOR RETURN FLIGHT.

SINCERELY YOURS,
RONALD O. SKOOG
KISSINGER

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